

REGION 8 WEEKLY REPORT – May 11, 2017

Hot Issues

EPA and US Forest Service develop joint Non-Time Critical Removal Action for Libby Superfund Site

Key Message: This removal action will allow for continued fire preparedness within asbestos-contaminated forests near the WR Grace vermiculite mine in Montana.

- Asbestos contamination in the forest could be liberated as a result of a wildfire, potentially exposing firefighters to unacceptable risk as well as impacting critical infrastructure (tailings dam and drinking water resources).
- EPA's total anticipated cost for the three-year response action is \$900,000; the Forest Service's anticipated cost is \$6.9 million.
- Region 8's goal is to finalize the Action Memo in May in order to implement these preparedness measures prior to the start of fire season, which begins in June.
- The state of Montana and Lincoln County are supportive of this response action.
- WR Grace is not supportive of this response action.
- Region 8 is coordinating with OLEM. The OLEM Acting AA will sign the Action Memo.

Upcoming Public Events - None

Upcoming Major Decisions

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

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Last Week Highlights – None

Public Hearings on the Draft Underground Injection Control (UIC) Permits for the Dewey Burdock Uranium In-Situ Recovery (ISR) Project.

Key Message: Region 8 held three public hearings in South Dakota the week of May 8th on the draft UIC permits and associated aquifer exemption for the Dewey Burdock ISR project located in Edgemont, SD.

- Hearings were held this week in the following locations:
 - Rapid City, SD
 - Hot Springs, SD
 - Edgemont, SD
- A total of 300 people attending the hearings in Rapid City including several commenters who identified themselves as tribal members. The Chairman of the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe and the Chairman of the Crow Creek Sioux Tribe also commented on the record expressing their concerns with the project and with EPA's consultation on the proposed action.
- Small protests have occurred outside the locations prior to each hearing.
- The comments have been overwhelming in opposition to the project.
- Press attended the hearings which resulted in several print, television and radio stories.
- The public comment period is set to end on May 19, 2017; however, EPA has received a request from the permit applicant, Powertech, USA, to extend the public comment period until July 21, 2017.